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COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

REVISED GENERAL GUIDELINES REGARDING THE FORM AND CONTENTS OF REPORTS TO BE SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER ARTICLES 16 AND 17 OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In accordance with article 17 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Economic and Social Council, by its resolution 1988 (LX) of 11 May 1976, established a programme under which the States parties to the Covenant would furnish in stages the reports referred to in article 16 thereof and the Secretary-General, at the Council's request, subsequently drew up an appropriate set of general guidelines. In response to the recent introduction of an entirely new reporting cycle and in the light of various perceived inadequacies in the approach reflected in the original guidelines, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, at its fifth session held from 26 November to 14 December 1990, adopted new guidelines.

2. The guidelines are intended to facilitate the preparation of reports by States parties. By following them as closely as possible, reporting officers will minimize the risk that their reports are deemed to be inadequate in scope and insufficient in detail. The guidelines also provide a uniformly applicable framework within which the Committee can work and enable it to demonstrate a consistency of approach from one report to another. They are also designed to reduce the amount of duplication of information requested by the various treaty bodies.

3. In adopting the revised general guidelines the Committee emphasized the importance of ensuring that the issues of principal concern were dealt with in a methodical and informative manner and strongly urged all States parties to adhere to them as closely as possible.

4. The text of the revised general guidelines is contained in the annex to the present document.

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ANNEX

Revised guidelines regarding the form and contents of reports to be submitted by States parties under articles 16 and 17 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*

A. Part of the report relating to general provisions of the Covenant

Article 1 of the Covenant

In what manner has the right to self-determination been implemented?

Article 2 of the Covenant

1. To what extent and in what manner are non-nationals not guaranteed the rights recognized in the Covenant? What justification is there for any difference?

2. Which of the rights are specifically subject to non-discrimination provisions in national law? Attach the text of such provisions.

3. If your State participates in development cooperation, is any effort made to ensure that it is used, on a priority basis, to promote the realization of economic, social and cultural rights?

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* It should be noted that the consolidated guidelines for the initial part of the reports of States parties to be submitted under the various international human rights instruments, including the Covenant, are contained in document HRI/1991/1, sent to States parties by note verbale G/SO 221 (1) of 26 April 1991.

B. Part of the report relating to specific rights

Article 6 of the Covenant

1. If your State is a party to any of the following Conventions:

International Labour Organisation (ILO) Employment Policy Convention, 1964 (No. 122)

ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111)

International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination

Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women

and has already submitted reports to the supervisory committee(s) concerned which are relevant to the provisions of article 6, you may wish to refer to the respective parts of those reports rather than repeat the information here. However, all matters which arise under the present Covenant and are not covered fully in those reports should be dealt with in the present report.

2. (a) Please supply information on the situation, level and trends of employment, unemployment and underemployment in your country, in respect of both the aggregate and particular categories of workers such as women, young persons, older workers and disabled workers. Please compare the respective situation 10 years ago and 5 years ago. Which persons, groups, regions or areas do you consider particularly vulnerable or disadvantaged with regard to employment?

(b) Please describe the principal policies pursued and measures taken with a view to ensuring that there is work for all who are available for and seeking work.

(c) Please indicate what measures have been adopted to ensure that work is as productive as possible.

(d) Please indicate what provisions ensure that there is freedom of choice of employment and that conditions of employment do not infringe upon fundamental political and economic freedoms of the individual.

(e) Please describe the technical and vocational training programmes that exist in your country, their effective mode of operation and their practical availability.

(f) Please state whether particular difficulties have been encountered in attaining the objectives of full, productive and freely chosen employment, and indicate how far these difficulties have been overcome.

3. (a) Please indicate whether there exist in your country any distinctions, exclusions, restrictions or preferences, be it in law or in administrative practices or in practical relationships, between persons or groups of persons, made on the basis of race, colour, sex, religion, political

opinion, nationality or social origin, which have the effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise of equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation. What steps are taken to eliminate such discrimination?

(b) Please supply information on the actual situation in your country regarding vocational guidance and training, employment and occupation of persons according to their race, colour, sex, religion, and national origin.

(c) Please indicate the main cases in which a distinction, exclusion or preference based on any of the above-named conditions is not considered in your country as discrimination, owing to the inherent requirements of a particular job. Please indicate any difficulties in application, disputes or controversies which have arisen in relation to such conditions.

4. Please indicate what proportion of the working population of your country holds more than one full-time job in order to secure an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families. Describe this development over time.

5. In case of subsequent reports, give a short review of changes, if any, in national legislation, court decisions, as well as administrative rules, procedures and practices during the reporting period affecting the right to work.

6. Please indicate the role of international assistance in the full realization of the right enshrined in article 6.

Article 7 of the Covenant

1. If your State is a party to any of the following ILO Conventions:

Minimum Wage-Fixing Convention, 1970 (No. 131)

Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100)

Weekly Rest (Industry) Convention, 1921 (No. 14)

Weekly Rest (Commerce and Offices) Convention, 1957 (No. 106)

Holidays with Pay Convention (Revised), 1970 (No. 132)

Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81)

Labour Inspection (Agriculture) Convention, 1969 (No. 129)

Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155)

and has already submitted reports to the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations which are relevant to the provisions of article 7 you may wish to refer to the respective parts of those reports rather than repeat the information here. However, all matters which arise under the present Covenant and are not covered fully in those reports should be dealt within the present report.

2. (a) Please supply information on the principal methods used for fixing wages.

(b) Please indicate whether a system of minimum wages has been established, and specify the groups of wage earners to which it applies, the number of persons covered by each group as well as the competent authority for determining these groups. Are there any wage earners remaining outside the protection of the system of minimum wages in law or in fact?

(i) Do these minimum wages have the force of law and in which ways are they secured against erosion?

(ii) To what extent and by which methods are the needs of workers and their families as well as economic factors taken into consideration and reconciled with each other in determining the level of minimum wages? What standards, goals and bench-marks are relevant in this respect?

(iii) Please describe briefly the machinery set up for fixing, monitoring and adjusting minimum wages;

(iv) Please supply information on the development of average and minimum wages 10 years ago, 5 years ago and at present, set against the respective development of the cost of living;

(v) Please indicate whether, in practice, the system of minimum wages is supervised effectively.

(c) Please indicate whether there exists in your country any inequality in remuneration for work of equal value, infringements of the principle of equal pay for equal work, or conditions of work for women which are inferior to those enjoyed by men.

(i) What steps are taken to eliminate such discrimination? Please describe the successes and failures of these steps with regard to the various groups that are discriminated against;

(ii) Please indicate what methods, if any, have been adopted to promote an objective appraisal of jobs on the basis of the work to be performed.

(d) Please indicate the income distribution of employees, both in the public and private sector taking into account both remuneration and non-monetary benefits. If available, give data on the remuneration of comparable jobs in the public and private sector.

3. What legal, administrative or other provisions exist that prescribe minimum conditions of occupational health and safety. How are these provisions enforced in practice and in which areas do they not apply?

(a) Please indicate which categories of workers, if any, are excluded from existing schemes by law and what other categories benefit from such schemes only insufficiently or not at all.

(b) Please provide statistical or other information on how the number, nature and frequency of occupational accidents (particularly with fatal results) and diseases have developed over time (10 years ago, 5 years as compared with the present).

4. Please supply information on the actual realization in your country of the principle of equal opportunity for promotion.

(a) Which groups of workers are currently deprived of such equal opportunity? In particular, what is the situation of women in this respect?

(b) What steps are taken to eliminate such inequality? Please describe the successes and failures of these steps with regard to the various disadvantaged groups.

5. Please describe the laws and practices in your country regarding rest, leisure, reasonable limitations of working hours, periodic holidays with pay and remuneration for public holidays.

(a) Indicate the factors and difficulties affecting the degree of realization of these rights.

(b) Indicate which categories of workers are excluded by law or in practice, or both, from the enjoyment of which of these rights. What measures are contemplated or currently taken to remedy this situation?

6. In case of subsequent reports, give a short review of changes, if any, in national legislation, court decisions, or administrative rules, procedures and practices during the reporting period affecting the right to just and favourable conditions of work.

7. Please indicate the role of international assistance in the full realization of the right enshrined in article 7.

Article 8 of the Covenant

1. If your State is a party to any of the following Conventions:

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

ILO Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87)

ILO Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98)

ILO Labour Relations (Public Service) Convention, 1978 (No. 151)

and has already submitted reports to the supervisory committee(s) concerned which are relevant to the provisions of article 8, you may wish to refer to the respective parts of those reports rather than repeat the information here. However, all matters which arise under the present Covenant and are not covered fully in those reports should be dealt with in the present report.

2. Please indicate what substantive or formal conditions, if any, must be fulfilled in order to join and form the trade union of one's choice.

(a) Please specify whether there exist any special legal provisions regarding the establishment of trade unions by certain categories of workers and, eventually, what these special provisions are, how they have been applied in practice, as well as the number of persons subjected to them.

(b) Are there any restrictions placed upon the exercise of the right to join and form trade unions by workers? Please provide a detailed account of the legal provisions prescribing such restrictions and their application in practice over time.

(c) Please supply information on how your Government secures the right of trade unions to federate and join international trade union organizations. What legal and practical restrictions are placed upon the exercise of this right?

(d) Please indicate in detail what conditions or limitations are placed upon the right of trade unions to function freely. Which trade unions have been adversely affected in practice by these conditions or limitations? What measures are being taken to promote free collective bargaining?

(e) Please supply data on the number and structure of trade unions established in your country, and on their respective membership.

3. Please indicate whether in your country workers are granted the possibility to strike as a matter of constitutional or legal right. If your answer is in the negative, what other legal or factual approach is used to guarantee the exercise of this right?

(a) What restrictions are placed upon the exercise of the right to strike? Please provide a detailed account of the legal provisions governing such restrictions and their application in practice over time.

(b) Please indicate whether there exist any special legal provisions regarding the exercise of the right to strike by certain categories of workers and what these special provisions are, how they have been applied in practice, as well as the number of workers subjected to them.

4. Please indicate whether any restrictions are placed upon the exercise of the rights mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 3 above by members of the armed forces, the police or the administration of the State. How have such restrictions been applied in actual practice?

5. In case of subsequent reports, give a short review of changes, if any, in national legislation, court decisions, as well as administrative rules, procedures and practices during the reporting period affecting the rights enshrined in article 8.

Article 9 of the Covenant

1. If your State is a party to the ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102) or to other relevant subsequent ILO Conventions (Nos. 121, 128, 130 and 168) and has already submitted reports to the supervisory committee(s) concerned which are relevant to the provisions of article 9, you may wish to refer to the respective parts of those reports rather than repeat the information here. However, all matters which arise under the present Covenant and are not covered fully in those reports should be dealt with in the present report.

2. Please indicate which of the following branches of social security exist in your country:

Medical care

Cash sickness benefits

Maternity benefits

Old-age benefits

Invalidity benefits

Survivors' benefits

Employment injury benefits

Unemployment benefits

Family benefits.

3. Please describe for each branch existing in your country the main features of the schemes in force, indicating the comprehensiveness of the coverage provided, both in the aggregate and with respect to different groups within the society, the nature and level of benefits, and the method of financing the schemes.

4. Please indicate what percentage of your GNP as well as of your national and/or regional budget(s) is spent on social security. How does this compare with the situation 10 years ago? What reasons are there for any changes?

5. Please indicate whether in your country the formal (public) social security schemes described are supplemented by any informal (private) arrangements. If such is the case, please describe these arrangements and the inter-relationships between them and the formal (public) schemes.

6. Please indicate whether in your country there are any groups which do not enjoy the right to social security at all or which do so to a significantly lesser degree than the majority of the population. In particular, what is the situation of women in that respect? Please give particulars of such non-enjoyment of social security.

(a) Please indicate what measures are regarded as necessary by your Government in order to realize the right to social security for the groups mentioned above.

(b) Please explain the policy measures your Government has taken, to the maximum of its available resources, to implement the right to social security for these groups. Give a calendar and time-related bench-marks for measuring your achievements in this regard.

(c) Please describe the effect of these measures on the situation of the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in point, and report the successes, problems and shortcomings of such measures.

7. In case of subsequent reports, give a short review of changes, if any, in national legislation, court decisions, as well as administrative rules, procedures and practices during the reporting period affecting the right to social security.

8. Please indicate the role of international assistance in the full realization of the right enshrined in article 9.

Article 10 of the Covenant

1. If your State is a party to any of the following Conventions:

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Convention on the Rights of the Child

Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women

ILO Maternity Protection Convention (Revised) 1952 (No. 103)

ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)

or to any other ILO convention on the protection of children and young persons in relation to employment and work, and if your Government has already submitted reports to the supervisory committee(s) concerned which are relevant to the provisions of article 10, you may wish to refer to the respective parts of those reports rather than repeat the information here. However, all matters which arise under the present Covenant and are not covered fully in these reports should be dealt with in the present report.

2. Please indicate what meaning is given in your society to the term "family".

3. Please indicate the age at which in your country children are deemed to attain their majority for different purposes.

4. Please supply information on the ways and means, both formal and informal, employed in your country to grant assistance and protection to the family. In particular:

(a) How does your country guarantee the right of men and, particularly, women to enter into marriage with their full and free consent and to establish a family? Please indicate and eventually give particulars about cases where the measures taken were not successful in abolishing practices adversely affecting the enjoyment of this right.

(b) By what measures does your country facilitate the establishment of a family as well as maintain, strengthen and protect it, particularly while it is responsible for the care and education of dependent children? Despite these measures, are there families which do not enjoy the benefit of such protection and assistance at all or which do so to a significantly lesser degree than the majority of the population? Please give details of these situations. Are extended families or other forms of familial organization recognized in determining the availability or applicability of these measures, particularly with respect to government benefits?

(c) With regard to shortcomings visible under subparagraphs (a) or (b), what measures are contemplated to remedy the situation?

5. Please provide information on your system of maternity protection.

(a) In particular:

(i) Describe the scope of the scheme of protection;

(ii) Indicate the total length of the maternity leave and of the period of compulsory leave after confinement;

(iii) Describe the cash, medical and other social security benefits granted during these periods;

(iv) Indicate, how these benefits have been developed over time.

(b) Please indicate whether there are in your society groups of women who do not enjoy any maternity protection at all or which do so to a significantly lesser degree than the majority. Please give details of these situations. What measures are being taken or contemplated to remedy this situation? Please describe the effect of these measures on the situation of the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in point, and report on successes, problems and shortcomings of such measures.

6. Please describe the special measures of protection and assistance on behalf of children and young persons, especially measures to protect them from economic and social exploitation or to prevent their employment in work harmful to their morals or health or dangerous to life or likely to hamper their normal development.

(a) What are the age limits in your country below which the paid employment of child labour in different occupations is prohibited?

(b) Please specify how many children, and of which age groups, engage in paid employment, and to what extent.

(c) Please specify to what extent children are being employed in their families' households, farms or businesses.

(d) Please indicate whether there are in your country any groups of children and young persons which do not enjoy the measures of protection and assistance at all or which do so to a significantly lesser degree than the majority. In particular, what is the respective situation of orphans, children without living biological parents, young girls, children who are abandoned or deprived of their family environment, as well as physically or mentally handicapped children?

(e) How are the persons mentioned in the preceding paragraph informed of their respective rights?

(f) Please give details of any difficulties and shortcomings. How have such adverse situations developed over time? What measures are being taken to remedy these situations? Please describe the effect of these measures over time and report on successes, problems and shortcomings.

7. In case of subsequent reports, give a short review of changes, if any, in national legislation, court decisions as well as administrative rules, procedures and practices during the reporting period affecting the right enshrined in article 10.

8. Please describe the role of international assistance in the full realization of the right enshrined in article 10.

Article 11 of the Covenant

1. (a) Please supply information on the current standard of living of your population, in respect of both the aggregate and different socio-economic, cultural, and other groups within the society. How has the standard of living changed over time (e.g., compared with 10 years ago and 5 years ago) with regard to these different groups? Has there been a continuous improvement of living conditions for the entire population or for what groups?

(b) In case your Government has recently submitted reports relevant to the situation with respect to all or some of the rights contained in article 11 to the United Nations or a specialized agency, you may wish to refer to the relevant parts of those reports rather than repeat the information here.

(c) Please indicate the per capita GNP for the poorest 40 per cent of your population. Is there a "poverty line" in existence in your country and, if so, what is the basis for this line?

(d) Please indicate your country's Physical Quality of Life Index.

2. The right to adequate food

(a) Please provide a general overview of the extent to which the right to adequate food has been realized in your country. Describe the sources of information that exist in this regard, including nutritional surveys and other monitoring arrangements.

(b) Please provide detailed information (including statistical data broken down in terms of different geographical areas) on the extent to which hunger and/or malnutrition exists in your country. This information should deal in particular with the following issues:

(i) The situation of especially vulnerable or disadvantaged groups, including:

Landless peasants
Marginalized peasants
Rural workers
Rural unemployed
Urban unemployed
Urban poor
Migrant workers
Indigenous peoples
Children
Elderly people
Other especially affected groups;

(ii) Any significant differences in the situation of men and women within each of the above groups;

(iii) The changes that have taken place over the past five years with respect to the situation of each of the above groups.

(c) During the reporting period, have there been any changes in national policies, laws and practices negatively affecting the access to adequate food by these groups or sectors or within the worse-off regions? If so, please describe these changes and evaluate their impact.

(d) Please indicate what measures are considered necessary by your Government to guarantee access to adequate food for each of the vulnerable or disadvantaged groups mentioned above and for the worse-off areas, and for the full implementation of the right to food for both men and women. Indicate the measures taken and specify time-related goals and nutritional bench-marks for measuring achievements in this regard.

(e) Please indicate in what ways measures taken to improve methods of production, conservation and distribution of food by making full use of technical and scientific knowledge have contributed towards, or have impeded the realization of the right to adequate food. Please describe the impact of these measures in terms of ecological sustainability and the protection and conservation of food producing resources.

(f) Please indicate what measures are taken to disseminate knowledge of the principles of nutrition and specify whether any significant groups or sectors within society seem to lack such knowledge.

(g) Please describe any measures of agrarian reform taken by your Government to ensure that the agrarian system is efficiently utilized in order to promote food security at household level without negatively affecting human dignity both in the rural and urban settings taking into account articles 6 to 8 of the Covenant. Describe the measures taken:

(i) To legislate to this effect;

(ii) To enforce existing law to this effect;

(iii) To facilitate monitoring through governmental and non-governmental organizations.

(h) Please describe and evaluate the measures taken by your Government in order to ensure an equitable distribution, in terms of both production and trade, of world food supplies in relation to need, taking into account the problems of both food-importing and food-exporting countries.

3. The right to adequate housing

(a) Please furnish detailed statistical information about the housing situation in your country.

(b) Please provide detailed information about those groups within your society that are vulnerable and disadvantaged with regard to housing. Indicate, in particular:

(i) The number of homeless individuals and families;

(ii) The number of individuals and families currently inadequately housed and without ready access to basic amenities such as water, heating (if necessary), waste disposal, sanitation facilities, electricity, postal services, etc. (in so far as you consider these amenities relevant in your country). Include the number of people living in over-crowded, damp, structurally unsafe housing or other conditions which affect health;

(iii) The number of persons currently classified as living in "illegal" settlements or housing;

(iv) The number of persons evicted within the last five years and the number of persons currently lacking legal protection against arbitrary eviction or any other kind of eviction;

(v) The number of persons whose housing expenses are above any government-set limit of affordability, based upon ability to pay or as a ratio of income;

(vi) The number of persons on waiting lists for obtaining accommodation, the average length of waiting time and measures taken to decrease such lists as well as to assist those on such lists in finding temporary housing;

(vii) The number of persons in different types of housing tenure by: social or public housing; private rental sector; owner-occupiers; "illegal" sector; and other.

(c) Please provide information on the existence of any laws affecting the realization of the right to housing, including:

(i) Legislation which gives substance to the right to housing in terms of defining the content of this right;

(ii) Legislation such as housing acts, homeless person acts, municipal corporation acts, etc;

(iii) Legislation relevant to land use, land distribution; land allocation, land zoning, land ceilings, expropriations including provisions for compensation; land planning, including procedures for community participation;

(iv) Legislation concerning the rights of tenants to security of tenure, to protection from eviction; to housing finance and rental control (or subsidy), housing affordability, etc;

(v) Legislation concerning building codes, building regulations and standards and the provision of infrastructure;

(vi) Legislation prohibiting any and all forms of discrimination in the housing sector, including groups not traditionally protected;

(vii) Legislation prohibiting any form of eviction;

(viii) Any legislative repeal or reform of existing laws which detracts from the fulfilment of the right to housing;

(ix) Legislation restricting speculation on housing or property, particularly when such speculation has a negative impact on the fulfilment of housing rights for all sectors of society;

(x) Legislative measures conferring legal title to those living in the "illegal" sector;

(xi) Legislation concerning environmental planning and health in housing and human settlements.

(d) Please provide information on all other measures taken to fulfil the right to housing, including:

(i) Measures taken to encourage "enabling strategies" whereby local community-based organizations and the "informal sector" can build housing and related services. Are such organizations free to operate? Do they receive Government funding?

(ii) Measures taken by the State to build housing units and to increase other construction of affordable, rental housing;

(iii) Measures taken to release unutilized, under-utilized or mis-utilized land;

(iv) Financial measures taken by the State including details of the budget of the Ministry of Housing or other relevant Ministry as a percentage of the national budget;

(v) Measures taken to ensure that international assistance for housing and human settlements is used to fulfil the needs of the most disadvantaged groups;

(vi) Measures taken to encourage the development of small and intermediate urban centres, especially at the rural level;

(vii) Measures taken during, inter alia, urban renewal programmes, redevelopment projects, site upgrading, preparation for international events (Olympics, expositions, conferences, etc.), "beautiful city campaigns", etc., which guarantee protection from eviction or guaranteed rehousing based on mutual agreement, by any persons living on or near to affected sites;

(e) During the reporting period, have there been any changes in national policies, laws and practices negatively affecting the right to adequate housing? If so, please describe the changes and evaluate their impact.

4. Please give details on any difficulties or shortcomings encountered in the fulfilment of the rights enshrined in article 11 and on the measures taken to remedy these situations (if not already described in the present report).

5. Please indicate the role of international assistance in the full realization of the rights enshrined in article 11.

Article 12 of the Covenant

1. Please supply information on the physical and mental health of your population, in respect of both the aggregate and the different groups within your society. How has the health situation changed over time with regard to these groups? In case your Government has recently submitted reports on the health situation in your country to the World Health Organization (WHO) you may wish to refer to the relevant parts of these reports rather than repeat the information here.

2. Please indicate whether your country has a national health policy. Please indicate whether a commitment to the WHO primary health care approach has been adopted as part of the health policy of your country. If so, what measures have been taken to implement primary health care?

3. Please indicate what percentage of your GNP as well as of your national and/or regional budget(s) is spent on health. What percentage of those resources is allocated to primary health care? How does this compare with 5 years ago and 10 years ago?

4. Please provide, where available, indicators as defined by the WHO, relating to the following issues:

(a) Infant mortality rate (in addition to the national value, please provide the rate by sex, urban/rural division, and also, if possible, by socio-economic or ethnic group and geographical area. Please include national definitions of urban/rural and other subdivisions);

(b) Population access to safe water (please disaggregate urban/rural);

(c) Population access to adequate excreta disposal facilities (please disaggregate urban/rural);

(d) Infants immunized against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, measles, poliomyelitis and tuberculosis (please disaggregate urban/rural and by sex);

(e) Life expectancy (please disaggregate urban/rural, by socio-economic group and by sex);

(f) Proportion of the population having access to trained personnel for the treatment of common diseases and injuries, with regular supply of 20 essential drugs, within one hour's walk or travel;

(g) Proportion of pregnant women having access to trained personnel during pregnancy and proportion attended by such personnel for delivery. Please provide figures on the maternity mortality rate, both before and after childbirth;

(h) Proportion of infants having access to trained personnel for care.

(Please provide breakdowns by urban/rural and socio-economic groups for indicators (f) to (h).)

5. Can it be discerned from the breakdowns of the indicators employed in paragraph 4, or by other means, that there are any groups in your country whose health situation is significantly worse than that of the majority of the population? Please define these groups as precisely as possible and give details. Which geographical areas in your country, if any, are worse off with regard to the health of their population?

(a) During the reporting period, have there been any changes in national policies, laws and practices negatively affecting the health situation of these groups or areas? If so, please describe these changes and their impact.

(b) Please indicate what measures are considered necessary by your Government to improve the physical and mental health situation of such vulnerable and disadvantaged groups or in such worse-off areas.

(c) Please explain the policy measures your Government has taken, to the maximum of available resources, to realize such improvement. Indicate time-related goals and bench-marks for measuring your achievements in this regard.

(d) Please describe the effect of these measures on the health situation of the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups or worse-off areas under consideration, and report on the successes, problems and shortcomings of these measures.

(e) Please describe the measures taken by your Government in order to reduce the stillbirth-rate and infant mortality and to provide for the healthy development of the child.

(f) Please list the measures taken by your Government to improve all aspects of environmental and industrial hygiene.

(g) Please describe the measures taken by your Government to prevent, treat and control epidemic, endemic, occupational and other diseases.

(h) Please describe the measures taken by your Government to assure to all medical service and medical attention in the event of sickness.

(i) Please describe the effect of the measures listed in subparagraphs (e) to (h) on the situation of the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in your society and in any worse-off areas. Report on difficulties and failures as well as on positive results.

6. Please indicate the measures taken by your Government to ensure that the rising costs of health care for the elderly do not lead to infringements of these persons right to health.

7. Please indicate what measures have been taken in your country to maximize community participation in the planning, organization, operation and control of primary health care.

8. Please indicate what measures have been taken in your country to provide education concerning prevailing health problems and the measures of preventing and controlling them.

9. Please indicate the role of international assistance in the full realization of the right enshrined in article 12.

Article 13 of the Covenant

1. With a view to achieving in your country the full realization of the right of everyone to education:

(a) How does your Government discharge its obligation to provide for primary education that is compulsory and available free to all? (If primary education is not compulsory and/or free of charge, see especially article 14.)

(b) Is secondary education, including technical and vocational secondary education, generally available and accessible to all? To what extent is such secondary education free of charge?

(c) To what extent is general access to higher education realized in your country? What are the costs of such higher education? Is free education established or being introduced progressively?

(d) What efforts have you made to establish a system of fundamental education for those persons who have not received or completed the whole period of their primary education?

In case your Government has recently submitted reports relevant to the situation with respect to the right contained in article 13 to the United Nations or a specialized agency, you may wish to refer to the relevant parts of those reports rather than repeat the information here.

2. What difficulties have you encountered in the realization of the right to education, as spelt out in paragraph 1? What time-related goals and bench-marks has your Government set in this respect?

3. Please provide statistics on literacy, enrolment in fundamental education with information on rural areas, adult and continuing education, drop-out rates at all levels of education as well as graduating rates at all levels (please disaggregate, if possible, according to sex, religion, etc.). Also provide information on measures taken to promote literacy, with data on the scope of the programmes, target population, financing and enrolment, as well as graduation statistics by age group, sex, etc. Please report on the positive results of these measures as well as on difficulties and failures.

4. Please provide information on the percentage of your budget (or, if necessary, regional budgets) spent on education. Describe your system of schools, your activity in building new schools, the vicinity of schools, particularly in rural areas, as well as the schooling schedules.

5. To what extent is equal access to the different levels of education and measures to promote literacy enjoyed in practice? For instance:

(a) What is the ratio of men and women making use of the different levels of education and taking part in these measures?

(b) With regard to practical enjoyment of the right to these levels of education and measures to promote literacy, are there any particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged groups? Indicate, for instance, to what extent young girls, children of low-income groups, children in rural areas, children who are physically or mentally disabled, children of immigrants and of migrant workers, children belonging to linguistic, racial, religious or other minorities, and children of indigenous people, enjoy the right to literacy and education spelt out in article 12.

(c) What actions is your Government taking or contemplating in order to introduce or guarantee equal access to all levels of education within your country, for instance in the form of anti-discriminatory measures, financial incentives, fellowships, positive or affirmative action? Please describe the effect of such measures.

(d) Please describe the language facilities provided to this effect, such as the availability of teaching in the mother tongue of the students.

6. Please describe the conditions of teaching staff at all levels in your country, having regard to the Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, adopted on 5 October 1966 by the Special Intergovernmental Conference on the Status of Teachers, convened by UNESCO. How do teachers' salaries compare to salaries of (other) civil servants? How has this ratio developed over time? What measures does your country take or contemplate to improve the living conditions of teaching staff?

7. What proportion of schools at all levels in your country is not established and administered by the Government? Have any difficulties been encountered by those wishing to establish or to gain access to those schools?

8. During the reporting period, have there been any changes in national policies, laws and practices negatively affecting the right enshrined in article 13? If so, please describe these changes and evaluate their impact.

9. Please indicate the role of international assistance in the full realization of the right enshrined in article 13.

Article 14 of the Covenant

If compulsory and free primary education in your country is not currently enjoyed, please provide details on the required plan of action for the progressive implementation, within a reasonable number of years fixed in this plan, of this principle. What particular difficulties have you encountered in the realization of this plan of action? Please indicate the role of international assistance in this respect.

Article 15 of the Covenant

1. Please describe the legislative and other measures adopted by or in your State to realize the right of everyone to take part in the cultural life which he or she considers pertinent, and to manifest his or her own culture. In particular, provide information on the following:

(a) Availability of funds for the promotion of cultural development and popular participation in cultural life, including public support for private initiative.

(b) The institutional infrastructure established for the implementation of policies to promote popular participation in culture, such as cultural centres, museums, libraries, theatres, cinemas, and in traditional arts and crafts.

(c) Promotion of cultural identity as a factor of mutual appreciation among individuals, groups, nations and regions.

(d) Promotion of awareness and enjoyment of the cultural heritage of national ethnic groups and minorities and of indigenous peoples.

(e) Role of mass media and communications media in promoting participation in cultural life.

(f) Preservation and presentation of mankind's cultural heritage.

(g) Legislation protecting the freedom of artistic creation and performance, including the freedom to disseminate the results of such activities, as well as an indication of any restrictions or limits imposed on the freedom.

(h) Professional education in the field of culture and art.

(i) Any other measures taken for the conservation, development and diffusion of culture.

Please report on positive effects as well as on difficulties and failures, particularly concerning indigenous and other disadvantaged and particularly vulnerable groups.

2. Please describe the legislative and other measures taken to realize the right of everyone to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications, including those aimed at the conservation, development and diffusion of science. In particular, provide information on the following:

(a) Measures taken to ensure the application of scientific progress for the benefit of everyone, including measures aimed at the preservation of mankind's natural heritage and at promoting a healthy and pure environment and information on the institutional infrastructures established for that purpose.

(b) Measures taken to promote the diffusion of information on scientific progress.

(c) Measures taken to prevent the use of scientific and technical progress for purposes which are contrary to the enjoyment of all human rights, including the rights to life, health, personal freedom, privacy and the like.

(d) Any restrictions which are placed upon the exercise of this right, with details of the legal provisions prescribing such restrictions.

3. Please describe the legislative and other measures taken to realize the right of everyone to benefit from the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic work of which he or she is the author. In particular, supply information on the practical

measures aimed at the full implementation of this right, including provision of the necessary conditions for scientific, literary and artistic activities, and the protection of intellectual property rights resulting from such activities. What difficulties have affected the degree of realization of this right?

4. What steps has your Government taken for the conservation, development and diffusion of science and culture? Please describe in particular:

(a) Measures at the constitutional level, within the national educational system and by means of the communications media.

(b) All other practical steps taken to promote such conservation, development and diffusion.

5. Please describe the legal, administrative and judicial system designed to respect and protect the freedom indispensable for scientific research and creative activity, in particular:

(a) Measures designed to promote enjoyment of this freedom including the creation of all necessary conditions and facilities for scientific research and creative activity.

(b) Measures taken to guarantee the freedom of exchange of scientific, technical and cultural information, views and experience between scientists, writers, creative workers, artists and other creative individuals and their respective institutions.

(c) Measures taken to support learned societies, academies of science, professional associations, unions of workers and other organizations and institutions engaged in scientific research and creative activities.

What difficulties have affected the degree of realization of this freedom?

6. Please describe the legislative and other measures by which your Government encourages and develops international contacts and co-operation in the scientific and cultural fields, including measures taken for:

(a) The fullest utilization, by all the States concerned, of the facilities afforded by their adherence to regional and international conventions, agreements and other instruments in the scientific and cultural fields.

(b) Participation by scientists, writers, artists and others involved in scientific research or creative activity, in international scientific and cultural conferences, seminars, symposiums, etc.

What factors and difficulties have affected the development of international co-operation in these fields?

7. During the reporting period, have there been any changes in national policies, laws and practices negatively affecting the rights enshrined in article 15? If so, please describe these changes and evaluate their impact.

8. In case your Government has recently submitted reports relevant to the situation with respect to the rights contained in article 15 to the United Nations or a specialized agency, you may wish to refer to the relevant parts of those reports rather than repeat the information here.

9. Please indicate the role of international assistance in the full realization of the rights enshrined in article 15.